institutional mechanism for dealing with industrial sickness and rehabilitating sick units so as to protect the interest of workers.

Amendments in Industrial Dispute Act

3719. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Andhra Pradesh Government for amendments to Section 2(a) of the Industrial Disputes Act and Section 22 of the Trade Unions Act to boost up exports from the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon as Apparel Export Park set up near Hyderabad find practical difficulty in boosting export in view of the provisions and drawbacks in the Acts *ibid?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to await enactment of the amendments to this Act by the Parliament.

Since the amendment proposals to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of the Parliament, the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh could await the passage of the Bill and its enactment by the Parliament.

Unit cost for rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers

3720. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion from the Andhra Pradesh Government to enhance the unit cost for rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 50,000/; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon in view of the high cost of land, agricultural implements, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Requests for enhancement of the rehabilitation assistance to freed bonded labourers had been received from various State Governments including the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Based on the consultations held with the representatives of the State Governments, rehabilitation assistance has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per freed bonded labourer with effect from May, 2000.

Child labour

3721. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the State with highest number of child labour;

(b) the action taken by Central Government to ask the States to launch an intensive drive to identify and rehabilitate all the child labourers; and

(c) in what way Government monitor the programmes for rehabilitation measures of the child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, Andhra Pradesh has the maximum number of working children.

(b) A communique dated 19/02/2000 has been sent to Chief Ministers of all States, *inter-alia,* requesting them to take decisive and convergent action to release children from work and secure their rehabilitation by pooling resources of various developmental programmes, initiating steps for setting up a State Level Authority with representatives from all concerned Departments for coordinated action towards the elimination of child labour and gearing up the enforcement machinery under the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986, Factories Act, Mines Act, Beedi & Cigar